

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 7-19 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please rewrite claims 1 and 3 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber comprising:
a plurality of polarization-maintaining fibers; and
~~wherein~~ a ribbon portion having first and second lateral ends, and a length of 2
to 300 mm is formed insurrounding at least some of the polarization-maintaining
fibers, the polarization-maintaining fibers extending individually from the second
lateral end of the ribbon portion.
2. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim
1, wherein said ribbon portion is one formed by fixing and coating said polarization-
maintaining fibers with an adhesive, and aligning end faces of said polarization-
maintaining fibers which are used at least as a signal so as to become a predetermined
plane of polarization.
3. (Currently Amended) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according
to claim 1,
~~wherein said ribbon portion further comprising is provided with a~~ positioning
means for maintaining alignment of said polarization-maintaining fibers.
4. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim
3, wherein said positioning means is formed as a series of convex and concave shapes.
5. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim
4, wherein said convex and concave shapes are disposed at a regular pitch or
discontinuously.
6. (Original) The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim
5, wherein said convex and concave shapes are formed as a saw tooth shape or a
curved wavy shape.

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Claims 7-19 (Cancelled)

20. (Original) A polarization-maintaining optical fiber array made of a ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber according to claim 1.

In the Abstract:

Please amend the Abstract as shown below:

Abstract of the Disclosure



~~To provide a~~ A ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber ~~is used~~ capable of not
only to easily manufacturing manufacture a polarization-maintaining optical fiber
array with multiple fibers ~~but also improving~~ and improve the work efficiency and
yield, ~~and a manufacturing method therefor, and a polarization-maintaining optical~~
~~fiber array using the ribboned fiber.~~ A The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber
~~is formed of~~ includes a plurality of polarization-maintaining fibers, and ~~partially has~~
a ribbon portion of 2 to 300 mm in length surrounding at least some of the
polarization-maintaining fibers. ~~This~~ The ribboned polarization-maintaining fiber is
manufactured by arranging the polarization-maintaining fibers with an exact pitch
width while the end face of the polarization-maintaining fibers ~~is~~ are rotationally
adjusted so as to have a predetermined plane of polarization and then by fixing and
coating a part thereof by and with an adhesive, thereby forming a the ribbon
portion.
